



# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2009

## MEDIA CONTACT

Paula Freund

Public Information Officer

Indy Parks & Recreation

E-mail: [pfreund@indygov.org](mailto:pfreund@indygov.org)

Office: 317-327-7035

Cell: 317-442-7578

## THE FIRST TEE OF INDIANAPOLIS SPONSORS FIRST TEE NATIONAL SCHOOL PROGRAM

*Program Will Train IPS Physical Educators to Introduce Golf, Nine Core Values to IPS Schoolchildren*

INDIANAPOLIS – (June 1, 2009) The City of Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation Director Stuart Lowry along with The First Tee of Indianapolis Board of Directors and representatives from Indianapolis Public Schools, the Indianapolis Colts organization and the Indiana Pacers organization today announced the sponsorship of The First Tee National School Program in IPS schools.

The First Tee of Indianapolis, the local chapter of the national organization The First Tee, impacts the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf. Through the Life Skills Education Program, young people learn how to apply the Nine Core Values of honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy and judgment in the course of daily life.

“IPS physical education and wellness programs focus on preparing students to be healthy adults. The First Tee program is an exceptional way to teach our students a lifetime sport,” said IPS Wellness Coordinator Audrey Satterblom. “The educational program is very user friendly and teaches young children the concepts of golf. Twenty of our great physical education teachers are blessed to have this program for our elementary schools. We thank the community for this opportunity.”

Becoming a sponsor of The First Tee National School Program provides participating schools with developmentally appropriate golf equipment, the National School Program curriculum based on national physical education standards, and training of physical education teachers. To support the local program at 10 IPS schools, The First Tee of Indianapolis and Indy Parks provided \$26,500 in available golf funds donated to The Indianapolis Parks Foundation. A matching Professional Golf Association grant awarded through The First Tee funded an additional 10 IPS schools.

Launched in 2004, The First Tee National School Program trains physical educators to introduce children to the game of golf and The First Tee Nine Core Values during regular physical education classes. The



Indy Parks and Recreation • Public Information Office • 200 East Washington Street • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

[317] 327-7035 • [317] 327-7097 fax • [www.indyparks.org](http://www.indyparks.org)

golf industry partnerships established by the National School Program encourage students to pursue their interest in golf and adopt its values beyond the classroom. There are more than 2,600 participating elementary schools in the country.

“The First Tee develops the character of kids using golf as a vehicle of engagement,” said Indy Parks Director Stuart Lowry. “Indy Parks is excited to launch this program throughout the IPS system. It is a hole-in-one for partnership development between IPS and Indy Parks.”

The announcement took place at The 1st Annual Anthony Gonzalez First Tee Indianapolis Golf Classic at Eagle Creek Golf Course. The Golf Classic raises funds to provide access for participation in The First Tee of Indianapolis program.

“It is a distinct pleasure and privilege to lend my support to the efforts of First Tee of Indianapolis,” said Indianapolis Colts Wide Receiver Anthony Gonzalez, member of The First Tee of Indianapolis Board of Directors. “Teaching and instilling core values in today’s youth is critical to our society’s continued success. First Tee does a superb job of doing so by coupling these lessons within the context of a great game, golf.”

The First Tee of Indianapolis program provides opportunities for boys and girls to develop skills that will enable them to become responsible citizens and leaders in their communities. Participants receive mentoring and tutoring from positive role models, golf lessons, opportunities to pay for reduced fees, and tournament play, education and scholarship opportunities.

#### About The First Tee of Indianapolis

The mission of The First Tee of Indianapolis is to impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf. For more information, visit [www.thefirstteeindy.org](http://www.thefirstteeindy.org).

#### About Indy Parks & Recreation

The mission of Indy Parks & Recreation is to create fun, safe, engaging and sustainable parks that enhance the quality of life for individuals, neighborhoods and communities. Indy Parks will be a national model of excellence and destination for facilities and programs, protecting parks, greenways and open spaces and championing environmental initiatives.

-- 30 --

